

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15

NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /111 W
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O R 261713 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2183

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07394

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CPRS, YS, UK

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CITIZENS DETAINED IN ADEN

REF: LONDON 7305

1. ADEN HAS JUST REPORTED THEY LEARNED FRANKLIN WAS BROUGHT BEFORE MAGISTRATE' S COURT JUNE 25 CHARGED WITH OFFENSES UNDER OFFICIAL SECRETS ORDINANCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY OF FOUR PROHIBITED MILITARY AREAS. HE ASKED AND WAS GRANTED ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JUNE 30 TO PREPARE HIS DEFENSE. HE ALSO ASKED FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND A MR. MODY HAS AGREED TO ACT IN HIS DEFENSE. MODY, AN INDIAN, IS KNOWN TO BRITISH EMBASSY, WHO DESCRIBE HIM AS " THE BEST OF A LIMITED CHOICE".

2. MODY SAID FRANKLIN SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. BRITISH CONSUL APPEARS TO HAVE OBTAINED PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT AT TRIAL.

3. MODY WANTS ASSURANCE HE WILL BE PAID HIS FEE AND
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COSTS BEFORE HE PROCEEDS. THEREFORE BRITISH HAVE
CABLED WASHINGTON SO THAT FRANKLIN' S PARENTS MAY GIVE
AUTHORIZATION TO PAY FEES.

4. HOWEVER, FCO POINTS OUT ITS REGULATIONS DO NOT
PERMIT PAYMENT OF SUCH LEGAL FEES UNTIL MONEY IS
DEPOSITED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY INTERESTED PARTY. THERE-
FORE FCO HAS ASKED ADEN TO ASCERTAIN HOW MUCH MONEY
IS NEEDED AND IS ADVISING WASHINGTON OF THIS REQUIRE-
MENT.

5. ADEN ALSO REPORTS THAT ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH
FRANKLIN CHARGED CARRIES PENALTY OF UP TO 14 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT FOR MAJOR OFFENSE AND UP TO TWO YEARS
AND/ OR FINE FOR MINOR OFFENSE. NOT KNOWN HOW PHOTO-
GRAPHY VIEWED IN ADEN, THOUGH ONE MIGHT ASSUME IT IS
MINOR.

6. COMMENT: WE ASKED FCO CONSULAR OFFICE OFFICIAL
WHETHER SHE THOUGHT PUBLICITY RECOMMENDED EARLIER BY
ADEN (REFTEL) WOULD SERVE NOW. SHE WAS INCLINED TO
DOUBT IT WHILE TRIAL UNDER WAY. DEPT. MAY WISH DELAY
ACTION ON THAT SUGGESTION.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: CPRS, UK, YS
To: ALGIERS
GENEVA
JIDDA
KUWAIT
NEA
SANAA
SECSTATE WASHDC

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